

consideration of title XV of the House bill, and subtitle A of title VII of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Mr. ARCHER, Mr. THOMAS, Mrs. JOHN-SON of Connecticut, and Messrs. MCCRERY, GIBBONS, STARK, and CARDIN. There was no objection.

□ 2030

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SEASTRAND). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### TRIBUTE TO BONNIE L. HAYS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FURSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bonnie L. Hays, of Washington County, OR, who has selflessly given of herself through 20 years of community service. From her days as a high school teacher to her recent 8-year tenure as the chairwoman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, Ms. Hays exemplifies the virtues of commitment, hard-work, and compassion. Her extensive community involvement is testament to her belief in public service.

As Chairwoman, Bonnie oversaw the implementation of the Major Street Transportation Improvement Plan, overwhelmingly approved by voters. This program has allowed for Washington County to maintain its roadway infrastructure while dealing with incredible growth. Her work in mental health and juvenile corrections has resulted in streamlining and making more efficient those county agencies that deal with the complex issues related to community health and safety. Her service to El Centro Cultural and A Child's Place have brought greater attention to minority and children's needs.

Now, as Bonnie faces her toughest battle we remember her spirit and strength. She is in our hearts and minds today. I am privileged to have this opportunity to recognize her before this body and I am honored to call her a friend.

#### IN MEMORIAM: HON. B.F. "BERNIE" SISK (1910-1995)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RADANOVICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the loss of one of our former Members, the Honorable Bernice Frederic Sisk. "Bernie," as he was widely and popularly known was first elected to Congress in 1954. His service began in the

84th Congress and continued for 11 succeeding Congresses. He was not a candidate for re-election in 1978, returning to his Fresno, California home where he lived and served the community in many ways until he went to his final rest on Wednesday of this week—October 25.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to represent today much of the area of California that Congressman Sisk served during his near quarter century in this House. Thus, I am familiar with his legacy and I know from countless constituents the admiration and respect in which he was held.

What was written by Capital commentators over time about Congressman Sisk is worth recalling as we honor his memory. In the 1972 Almanac of American Politics, reference is made to how his ingratiating personality and conservative record saw him, an important figure in the House, become a candidate for Majority Leader in late 1970.

I feel a kinship with my late predecessor, Mr. Speaker, not only because of geographical identity and his conservatism—even though my party was not his—but also because of his main legislative interest, namely, agriculture, and his sponsorship of major water projects for California's Central Valley. Indeed, the San Luis Dam of the Central Valley Project is named for him.

Our community also applauded "Bernie" Sisk's legislative leadership in 1977 when he moved to the fore in connection with health care cost control related to Medicare. According to Congressional Quarterly Almanac, he relayed concerns from his district about the effects of an administration plan. He said, according to CQ, "hospitals must have some way to control the cost of their supplies if they were required to control their revenues." The publication reports that Congressman Sisk said hospitals in his area had complained that Federal regulations had become too binding, preventing economy measures that the hospitals wanted to institute. "There must be more flexibility," he is reported as saying.

Probably no better statement of the legacy of Congressman Sisk could be expressed than that of our former colleague, Congressman Tony Coelho, who once served as Congressman Sisk's administrative assistant here on the Hill. Tony told me today, "No single individual did more to advance the economy and growth of the Central Valley than Bernie Sisk."

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Sisk's passing is a loss to our community and country. To his family, friends, and all he served with great distinction, I express my sincerest sympathy.

In further esteem for his memory, I ask that there be included with my remarks the published obituary from the Fresno Bee of October 26, 1995, entitled "Congressman Leaves Legacy."

#### CONGRESSMAN LEAVES LEGACY

(By Felicia Cousart and Michael Doyle)

Former Congressman B.F. Sisk, who emerged from a Dust Bowl childhood to become a longtime political power broker in the nation's capital, died Wednesday in Fresno after a lengthy illness.

He was 84.

Mr. Sisk, a moderate Democrat from Fresno who served in Congress from 1955 to 1979, worked with six presidents and four House speakers during his long tenure representing the Valley.

The one-time tire salesman was one of the most influential lawmakers to come from

the region, benefiting not only Valley interests but shaping national policy as well.

"There's nobody who had a greater impact on the San Joaquin Valley than Bernie Sisk," said Tony Coelho, former House majority whip and Mr. Sisk's one-time administrative assistant. "You can go up and down the Valley and find the projects he put there."

But Mr. Sisk's story is much more than the legacy of a political mover-and-shaker. How he got there is just as fascinating, especially for a man who professed to never have any political ambitions until that day in 1954 when Mr. Sisk, then 43, decided to run for office.

He upset Republican Oakley Hunter in what was then California's 12th District and never looked back.

#### "POLITICAL ACCIDENT"

Mr. Sisk's years in Congress stretched from the laid-back days of Eisenhower to the turmoil of Vietnam and Nixon's Watergate to the early years of the Carter administration.

"I was a political accident," Mr. Sisk said in his easy Texas drawl in 1978 when he announced he would retire. He said he never caught what is called "Potomac fever."

For a "political accident," Mr. Sisk's work had far-reaching consequences, from his relentless pursuit of the San Luis water project in the Valley to serving on a committee that helped land the first man on the moon.

He showed a remarkable aptitude for the political game and became a consummate player. As a member of the House Rules Committee and House Administration Committee, he did for other lawmakers so that they could do for him.

"That gave him a very powerful place," said former Sen. Alan Cranston. "He'd start something in the House, or I'd start something in the Senate and then we'd work together."

Mr. Sisk's greatest single Valley contribution is the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project. Recently, the San Luis Dam was re-named B.F. Sisk San Luis Dam. The project includes the vast reservoir near Los Banos and 115 miles of canals that help irrigate farmland between Los Banos and Kettleman City.

At more than 2 million acre-feet, the San Luis Reservoir is the largest reservoir in the world without a natural stream.

"I'm not sure anybody else could have gotten it through," Coelho said.

And there are other projects that exist because of Mr. Sisk.

Communities like Sanger, Selma, Madera and others tapped into federal funds because of him. The huge Internal Revenue Service center in Fresno, with its 3,500 permanent employees, is in Fresno because of Mr. Sisk. The federal building in downtown Fresno is named after Mr. Sisk.

But his reach went far beyond the Valley. When the Soviet Union sent Sputnik into orbit in 1957, Washington went into a tail-spin. Within hours, House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas put together a blue-ribbon committee on science and astronautics and appointed Mr. Sisk.

The committee acted to create the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a move that climaxed with the United States landing Apollo 11 on the moon in 1969.

In 1961, Rayburn again picked Mr. Sisk for another plum assignment: serving on the power-wielding Rules Committee.

The panel is for insiders only—its members set the rules for debate and decide which amendments can be voted on.

That committee in the early 1960's helped change history. President Kennedy pushed to